

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02592 301450Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
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R 301400Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 837
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2592

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, KU
SUBJECT: COST OF DESALINATED WATER IN KUWAIT

REF: HONG KONG 5105

1. POTABLE WATER IN KUWAIT IS PRODUCED BY DESALINATING
SEAWATER. MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER (MEW) IS THE
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY. MEW OFFICIAL GAVE FOLLOWING
COST INFO IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL.

2. COST OF PRODUCTION EXCLUDING PUMPING, STORING (I.E.
DISTRIBUTION) IS APPROXIMATELY \$0.724 PER THOUSAND IMPERIAL
GALLONS. COST OF DISTRIBUTION IS ABOUT THE SAME RESULTING
IN A CONSUMER COST OF \$1.448 PER THOUSAND IMPERIAL GALLONS.

3. COMMENT: THIS COST INFORMATION REFLECTS THE LOW COST
OF NATURAL GAS THAT HERETOFORE LARGELY WOULD HAVE BEEN FLARED
WERE IT NOT USED TO RUN THE DESAL/POWER PLANTS. KUWAIT WILL
SOON SHIP MOST OF ITS ASSOCIATED NATURAL GAS AS LIQUIFIED
PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) WHICH MAY CAUSE PRICE OF DESALINATED
WATER TO CONSUMER TO RISE AS MORE EXPENSIVE FUEL OIL IS
SUBSTITUTED FOR GAS AS POWER SOURCE. WE DOUBT COST FIGURES
CITED BY MINISTRY BEAR ANY RESEMBLANCE TO TRUE (OPPORTUNITY)
COST OF DESALINATED WATER. IF FUEL USED WAS PRICED AT WORLD
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PRICE OF FUEL OIL, DESALINATION COST MIGHT BE 5-10 TIMES
THAT CITED.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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